

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

DAVID VANCE GARDNER and GARY MERCHANT individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

MeTV National Limited Partnership,

Defendant.

Case No.: 1:22-cv-05963

Honorable Lindsay C. Jenkins

**JOINT STATUS REPORT PURSUANT TO DKT. NO. 69**

**JOINT STATUS REPORT**

Pursuant to the Court’s order dated May 22, 2025, Plaintiffs David Vance Gardner and Gary Merchant (“Plaintiffs”) and Defendant MeTV (“Defendant” or “MeTV”) submit the following joint status report to address proposed next steps in the case. *See* Dkt. No. 69.

The parties have scheduled a mediation before the Honorable Diane M. Welsh (ret.) of JAMS on September 10, 2025—Judge Welsh’s earliest available date that worked for all parties—to explore whether resolution of this dispute is possible without further litigation. To promote judicial economy and efficiency and to allow the parties to focus on the upcoming mediation, the parties respectfully request that this action be stayed pending mediation. The parties further request that they be afforded until September 24, 2025 to submit to the Court a joint status report as to any additional proposed next steps that may be necessary in the event the September 10 mediation does not resolve this case, including for further briefing of any remaining motion to dismiss arguments and a proposed fact discovery schedule.

Dated: June 2, 2025

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